PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (e) Kerosene is an allocated product and annual allocation is made by Central Government to States/UTs for distribution through Public Distribution System (PDS). The distribution through PDS is monitored by State Government/Union Territories Administration. The annual quota for the year 2000-2001 for Uttar Pradesh and Delhi is 1440246 MTs and 204672 MTs respectively. The total requirement of diesel in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Delhi is met fully.

Setting up of Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies in SC/ST dominated areas of U.P.

1636. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of petrol pumps and LPG agencies functioning in Uttar Pradesh as on 30th April, 2000;

(b) whether new petrol pumps and LPG agencies would be set up in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh where Scheduled Caste/ Sheduled Tribe people are dominating; and

(c) if so, the details of steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) As on 1.4.2000, there were 2426 retail outlets and 738 LPG distributorships in operation in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) In addition to the locations pending from the previous Marketing Plans, 37 locations falling in 'E' class market (i.e., remote areas not covered by National Highways/State Highways and pockets of agricultural concentration having no retail outlets within 10 km radius) for setting up of retail outlets and 54 locations for setting up LPG distributorships for rural areas have been included in the Marketing Plans 1996-98 for the State of Uttar Pradesh.

For making early selection of dealers/distributors, 10 Dealer

Selection Boards have been set up in the State of Uttar Pradesh and the selection process is on.

LPG Agencies to SCs/STs/OBCs and Minorities in Bihar

†1637. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies sanctioned and distributed in rural and urban areas in Bihar during last three years;

(b) the number of agencies allocated to persons belonging to SC/ ST/Backward Classes and minorities out of the sanctioned LPG agencies mentioned above; and

(c) the details of rules followed by Government in allocation of LPG agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) During the last 3 years (1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000), 30 LPG distributorships were allotted in different areas of Bihar.

(b) Out of the above number, 10 LPG distributorships were allotted to persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and 4 to persons belonging to the Scheduled Tribes. There is no reservation for Other Backward Classes and minorities in the allotment of dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products.

(c) Under the existing policy, the following reservation has been provided in the allotment of Retail Outlet dealerships, SKO-LDO dealerships and LPG distributorships:—

(a) Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST)	- 25%
(b) Physically Handicapped Persons (PH)	- 5%
(c) Defence Personnel (DC)	- 8%
(d) Paramilitary/Police/Government Personnel (PMP)	- 8%
(e) Freedom Fighters (FF)	- 2%

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.